

MTA-1016  
6 July 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- June 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The Knesset election campaign, the Israeli air attack on a nuclear reactor in Iraq, the summit meeting between Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President as-Sadat, and U.S. special envoy Philip Habib's resumption of shuttle diplomacy to end the missile crisis in Lebanon kept the Hebrew section well occupied throughout June. The task was all the more complicated by the extended sick leave of one member of the six-person Hebrew staff.

Key embassy consumers throughout the month continued to follow the bureau's processed materials with utmost interest, as evidenced by a seemingly never-ending array of telephone calls and other communications seeking details of events in the news.

The election campaign reached a high point on 25 June when Begin and his chief opponent, Shimon Peres, conducted a 40-minute debate, duly processed in seven takes. The translation of the debate, which began at 2140 local time, was sent by special courier to the ambassador about midnight. The bureau remained open throughout the night of 30 June-1 July to report on the results of the election. During the course of the evening, the duty editor was in touch with the ambassador's residence.

At 1600 local time on 8 June news of the Israeli air raid on the nuclear reactor site near Baghdad was broadcast by Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew. From that source the bureau wirefiled a ZZ message on the raid before other Middle Eastern radios had broadcast details. The raid resulted in a spate of commentaries and editorials, both pro and con, and reports purporting to give "details" of the operation.

The Begin-as-Sadat summit on 4 June, although not resulting in as much processing as had been anticipated, did produce a six-take press conference by the two leaders and a series of FYI's, reports and commentaries on events connected with the summit. Ambassador Samuel Lewis expressed appreciation for the bureau's "rapid handling" of the materials.

On 11 June the Turkish section ended 1 month of sample coverage of the Baku International Service in Turkish 1500 GMT cast. The coverage began in response to consumer interest in learning about the contents of the broadcasts. A survey of the summaries by Headquarters consumers determined that further coverage of the cast was not necessary at present.

On 29 June the Turkish section began covering the Moscow in Turkish to Turkey 1400, 1430 and 1830 GMT casts for London bureau while the latter's Turkish monitor was on leave.

B. Technical

With the installation of the new rotatable VHF/UHF/FM antenna on the embassy roof (reported in the May monthly report), television cruising has produced some interesting findings. Transmissions from Romanian, Czechoslovak (Bratislava), and Hungarian transmitters have been observed. Middle East stations observed have been Jordan, Egypt, Cyprus, Syria and Bahrain. The pirate television ship "Odelia," operating off the coast of Israel, has been observed with fair reception.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Hebrew monitor [ ] was promoted to FSN-8 during the month. STAT

III. VISITS

[ ] Deputy Director of FBIS, visited the bureau early in the month as part of an inspection trip to Middle East and European bureaus. STAT

Production Group linguist [ ] visited the bureau on 25 and 26 July as part of an area familiarization trip. STAT

[ ] associate editor at London Bureau, briefly stopped in at the bureau during private travel to Israel. STAT

[ ] STAT

Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachments: A. Production Report  
B. Filed Wordage Report  
C. Communications Report